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EXAMINER	
IRSHADULLAH, M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3623	

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/704,638	DOERR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Irshadullah	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 June 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-37* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-37* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the correspondence filed June 29, 2004.

Summary Of Instant Office Action

2. Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, Office Action mailed March 01, 2004 have been fully considered and are responded below.

3. Amendment to claims 4-6, 10, 13-16 and new claims 17-37 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Using Microsoft Project 4 for Windows by Tim Pyron et al (April 1994), hereinafter referred to as Pyron et al.

Pyron et al disclose:

Claim 1. A computer-implemented system for displaying an estimated duration character in a field, where the estimated duration character is text that indicates that a time period duration is estimated, comprising:

a) a user interface for receiving a duration value string, where the duration value string is text that indicates the time period duration and whether the time period duration is estimated (Page 325, Fig. 12.6 {window with box: Duration showing 45d, 0d, 25d, 3w etc.} and page 341, lines 1-7, wherein cited "window" representing "user interface", "45d, 3w etc." indicating "receiving duration value string" comprising "time span or periods of 45d or 45 days, 3w or 3 weeks etc. in text" and cited "revised duration estimate" indicating that said "duration" is "estimate or estimated" and that the reference provides "estimating function or functionality". Moreover, Pyron teaches Creating New Toolbars, page 623 and Adding New Buttons to Toolbars and Customizing Buttons, page 626, thus, it is just a matter of adding a new button or customizing an existing button with some symbol or alpha on its face, such as & or E {page 473, last para, lines 3-6}, representing something like Estimate or Estimated values, attaching some string to it, such as 45d or 45 days, and when the button is activated, clicking by a mouse, the user receiving the result as &45d or &45 days or E45d or E45days appearing under the Duration box, pointing or indicating that 45d or 45daya is estimate or estimated value of duration);

b) a parser for separating the duration value string so that it can be interpreted (Page 448, Setting and Clearing Page Breaks, lines 1-6, wherein "printing a page at a user set page break" and "new page stating at a specific task or resource" indicating the availability and use of a "parser" which a user would employ for "breaking or separating" above discussed duration string and reference system would "consider or judge or interpret" the same as such. Moreover, use of parser is so long before practiced in the

computer arts, that at the time of instant invention a user would consider its use as inherent, for support please see enclosed Srinivasan Patent 5,548,506, col. 7, lines 37-39);

c) a storage for storing the separated duration value string (Page 5, Beefed Up Power, lines 4-7, wherein "saving in ODBC" clearly indicating provision of "storing" means {storage} and function which a user a user would use for storing above discussed broken or separated estimated duration value string); and

d) a display for interpreting the duration value string and for showing the estimated duration character in the field (Page 516, Selecting the Tasks That Display the Bar, lines 1-8, wherein "displaying" requisite bar pointing to availability of a "display" means and function, which a user would use to considering or judging or interpreting the displayed above discussed estimated duration entries or characters, such as 45d as 45 days, 3w as 3 weeks etc. and said entries or characters are depicted or shown in the specified spaces or fields. Moreover, above discussed & or E representing "estimate or estimated duration character").

Claim 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the duration value string comprises:

a) a duration value, which is the value internally used by the system (As discussed above, 45d, 3w etc. time spans or duration values which MS Project system would use or internally use for producing or generating some results, such as "completed percentage, remaining duration, new estimated duration etc., page 341, lines 1-7");

b) a duration display type, which indicates how the duration should be displayed (Above discussed 45d, 3w etc. represent the form or type of span or duration, such as days {d}, weeks {w} of etc. and above discussed display means and function would output or depict or display in said forms or types); and

c) an estimated flag, which indicates that the estimated duration character should be displayed (Page 341, lines 5-6, wherein "leaving actual duration unchanged" "displaying completed and remaining" duration pointing to provision of "flag" or "flagging" function which a user would use for claimed purpose).

Claim 3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the storage comprises:

a) a duration value memory for storing the duration value (Page 5, lines 4-7, wherein a user would use cited "database ODBC and partitions thereof" for claimed purpose);

b) a duration display type memory for storing the duration display type (Page 5, lines 4-7, wherein a user would use cited "database ODBC and partitions thereof" for claimed purpose); and

c) an estimated flag memory for storing the estimated flags (Page 5, lines 4-7, wherein a user would use cited "database ODBC and partitions thereof" for claimed purpose).

Claim 4. A computer-implemented method for displaying an estimated duration character, where the estimated duration character is text that indicates that a time period duration is estimated, comprising the steps of:

a) determining if sheet mode or dialog mode should be used (Page 454, Selecting the Special Options for Views with Sheets, lines 1-3 and page 455, Fig. 16.9, wherein "choosing view tab in page set up dialog box for seeing options specific to views containing sheets" indicating "determining as to which sheet or sheet mode {which of the Task or Resource Sheet} be used", and a user would use the choosing or determining function for deciding or determining as to which mode {sheet or dialog} he should use. Moreover, Pyron also teaches use of dialog or dialog mode, such as Page Setup dialog box, Fig. 16.9);

b) wherein if the sheet mode is used, the user enters a duration value, which is internally used in a first duration field (Page 454, last paras, lines 1-3, wherein cited Task or Resource sheet indicating Pyron's teaching "sheet or sheet mode" and a user would use Pyron's "entering" function, Page 586, lines 7-8, for entering above discussed duration values in the field or first field, such as 103d depicted in Fig. 20.22, as &103d or E103d in the light of discussion above about & and E characters representing estimate or estimated duration vlue, the entered values are used by the Pyron's system; i.e., they are "used internally" and user would use the entering function for entering above discussed & or E characters in the forementioned field); and

c) wherein if the dialog mode is used, the user accesses a dialog box to enter the duration value in a second duration field, and either enters the estimated duration

character in the second duration field, where the second duration field is a field holding duration information, or checks an estimated field, where the estimated field is a field holding information on whether the duration is estimated (Page 455, Fig. 16.9, wherein using "Page Setup dialog box" for choosing view tab indicating Pyron's teaching using "dialog mode", and cited "choosing view tab in the Page Setup dialog box" indicating user's "accessing" the dialog box, and user would use above discussed entering function for entering duration value for entering in another or second field, such as 106d in the format of &106d or E106d, and as discussed above & or E representing estimate or estimated duration value); and

d) running the sheet mode or the dialog mode to display the estimated duration characteristic in a display field (Page 455, lines 1-13, wherein user's clicking a mouse button or pressing a key of a keyboard on the options in a dialog box or sheet and system's depicting or displaying results of said actions indicating "executing or implementing or running" chosen or determined to use dialog box or sheet options and a user would use the display for depicting or displaying above discussed & or E characters in the display field, such as above discussed 103d or 106d).

Claim 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the steps of determining if the sheet mode should be used comprises the steps of:

a) moving a cursor to the first duration field where the user wants to enter the time period duration (Page 55, lines 3-5, wherein "clicking mouse button" or pressing key of keyboard indicating "moving the cursor" to requisite space or field for performing

some action including the claimed one, Page Setup dialog box, and a user would use the cursor for clicking or moving to above discussed first duration field); and

b) clicking the cursor once on the first duration field where the user wants to enter the time period duration (As discussed above).

Claim 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of determining if the dialog mode should be used comprises the steps of:

a) moving a cursor to the second duration field where the user wants to enter the time period duration (See discussion of claim 5a) above and a user would use the cursor for clicking or moving to above discussed second duration field); and

b) clicking the cursor twice on the second duration field where the user wants to enter the time period duration or using a tool bar command (Page 150: Understanding the Calendar View, lines 14-16, wherein "double clicking" indicating "clicking the curser twice" and user would use said "double clicking" function for claimed purpose, and a user would use the double clicking for clicking on above discussed second duration field).

Claim 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of running the sheet mode further comprises the steps of:

a) inputting a duration value string, where the duration value string is text that indicates the duration and whether the duration is estimated (Page 61, The Entry Bar,

lines 4-8, wherein "entering" data indicating "inputting" function which a user would use for claimed purpose);

b) separating the duration value string into a duration value, where the duration value is the value internally used by the system, a duration display type, where the duration display type indicates how the duration should be displayed; and an estimated flag, where the estimated flag indicates that the estimated duration character should be displayed (See discussion of Applicant's claims 1b), 2b) and 2c) above);

c) storing the duration value in a duration value memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 3a) above);

d) storing the duration display type in a duration display type memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 3b) above);

e) determining if the estimated flag is set to "yes" or "no" (Page 675, rectangle A depicting "Yes", "No" buttons, wherein said buttons' values implemented by the system returning "Yes" or "No" in response to user's considered or judged action, indicating user's "determining" the use of appropriate one including claimed "setting of flag" to Yes or No);

f) storing the estimated flag in an estimated flag memory if the estimated flag is set to "yes" (See discussion of Applicant's claim 3c) above)

g) displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type, and the estimated duration character if the estimated flag is stored in the estimated flag memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1d) above, wherein a user would use cited "display" means and function for claimed purpose).

Claim 8. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of running the dialog mode further comprises the steps of:

a) creating copies of the duration fields and the estimated field (Page 57, Copy Dialog Box, wherein a user would use cited "copying" function for claimed purpose);

b) inputting the duration value string, where the duration value string is text that indicates the time period duration and whether the duration is estimated (Page 61, The Entry Bar, lines 4-8, wherein "entering" data indicating "inputting" function which a user would use for claimed purpose);

c) separating the duration value string into a duration value, where the duration value is the value internally used by the system, a duration display type, where the duration display type indicates how the duration should be displayed; and an estimated flag, where the estimated flag indicate that the estimated duration character should be displayed (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7b) above);

e) storing the duration value in a duration value memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7c) above);

f) storing the duration display type in a duration display type memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7d) above);

g) determining if the estimated flag is set to "yes" or "no" (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7e) above);

storing the estimated flag in an estimated flag memory if the estimated flag is set to "yes" (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7f) above);

h) closing the dialog box (Page 38, line 1, wherein a user would use cited "closing" command for claimed purpose);

i) displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type, and the estimated duration character if the estimated flag is stored in the estimated flag memory (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7g) above).

Claim 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of closing the dialog box comprises the steps of:

a) determining whether the user wants to "OK" or "cancel" the user choice data (Page 35, wherein rectangle showing "OK" and "Cancel" options, which a user would use for claimed purpose);

b) duplicating the duration value, the duration display type, and estimated flag if the user wants to "OK" the user choice data (Page 35, wherein rectangle showing "OK" and "Cancel" options, which a user would use for claimed purpose); and

c) closing the dialog box without duplicating the duration value, duration display type, and estimated flag if the user chooses "cancel" (Page 38, line 1, wherein a user would use cited "closing" command for claimed purpose and when a user would use cited closing command, requisite dialog box would end or close and no data or value would appear or duplicated from the system's above discussed database or memory).

Claim 10. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the step of separating the duration value string comprises the steps of:

a) identifying the duration value and the duration display type in the duration value string Page 181, Name, line 1, wherein "identifying resource name" indicating availability of "identifying" function which a user would use for claimed purpose);

b) checking the estimated flag memory to see if any unidentified characters in the duration value string is a default estimated duration character, where the default estimated duration character is the default text that is used to indicate that the time period duration is estimated (Page 341, last para, line 5, wherein a user would use "tracking or checking" function for claimed purpose);

c) setting the estimated flag to "yes" if any unidentified characters in the duration value string is the default estimated duration character (Page 18, ID, line 2, wherein a user would use "assigning or setting" function for claimed purpose);

d) checking the estimated flag memory to see if any of the unidentified characters in the duration value string is an alternate estimated duration character, where the alternate estimated duration character is alternate text that is used to indicate that the time period duration is estimated (As discussed in b) above);

e) setting the estimated flag to "yes" if any of the unidentified characters in the duration value string is the alternate estimated duration character (As discussed in 1c) above);

f) removing all default estimated duration characters and all alternate estimation duration characters (Page 214, line 1, wherein a user would use "removing" function for claimed purpose); and

g) setting the estimated flag to "no" if none of the unidentified characters in the duration value string is the default estimated duration character or the alternate estimated duration character (As discussed in c) above).

Claim 11. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein said step of displaying the duration value comprises the steps of:

a) obtaining the duration value (Page 618, Fig. 22.1, data or values "40d, 0d, 3w etc." under Duration are "received or obtained" ones when a user used above discussed "display" function and means);

b) obtaining the duration display type (As discussed above, wherein 40d representing the "form or type" 40 days and 3w representing form or type of "3 weeks" span or duration);

c) combining the duration value and the duration display type into a human readable string (Page 469, Creating a Combination view, lines 1-3, wherein a user would use "combining" function for claimed purpose);

d) checking the estimated flag to see if it is set to "yes" or "no" (See discussion of Applicant's claim 10d) above);

e) checking a user option to display the estimated duration character to see if it is set to "yes" or "no" (See discussion of Applicant's claim 10d) above);

f) displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type and the estimated duration character if the estimated flag and the user choice are set to "yes"

(See discussion of Applicant's claim 1d) above, wherein a user would use "display" means and function for claimed purpose); and

f) displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type if the estimated flag or the user choice is "no" (As discussed above).

Claim 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type, and the estimated duration character if the estimated flag and the user choice are set to "yes" comprises the steps of:

a) determining the position for the estimated duration character and adding the estimated duration character to the human readable string (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7e) above);

determining the default estimated duration character and adding the default estimated duration character to the human readable string (See discussion of Applicant's claim 7e) above); and

displaying the duration value in the correct duration display type and the estimated duration character (See discussion of Applicant's claim 11f) above).

Claim 13. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

allowing the user to select an option to not display the estimated duration character Page 57, **2.**, wherein a user would use {allowed to} "select" function for claimed purpose).

Claim 14. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

allowing the user to select an option to have new tasks have estimated duration characters until the user chooses to enter a duration value As discussed in claim 13 above).

Claim 15. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

allowing the user to filter a task list to display only tasks that have estimated duration characters (Page 478, Using And Creating Filters, lines 1-14, wherein a user would use {allowed to} "filtering" function for claimed purpose).

Claim 16. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

designating a summary level task, where a summary level task has subtasks, with an estimated duration character if any of the subtasks has an estimated duration characters (Page 118, lines 5-8, wherein "summary task" representing "summary level task" and "subordinate task" representing "subtasks" and as discussed above "40d, 3w etc." indicating "estimated duration characters" and same would relate to said subtasks).

Claim 17. A method in a project planning system for specifying durations, the method comprising:

a) receiving from a user a duration of a project task and an indication that the duration is estimated (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) storing an indication of the duration of the project task is estimated (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1b) above); and

c) when displaying the duration of the project task, displaying an indication that the duration is estimated (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1c) above).

Claim 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the received indication and the displayed indication are in different formats (Above discussed received indicative characters are &45d or E45d, and if the characters are hyperlinks when clicked on they would show the result in a different form or format, for instance, as 45 days estimated duration values, if the user had chosen the display explanation attached to the button like it as per discussion of adding button in Applicant's claim 1a) above).

Claim 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the received indication that the duration is estimated is a symbol of uncertainty specified as part of a string that includes the duration (Page 626, Adding New Button to Toolbars, a user would add a button like ?Duration for indicating dubiety or uncertainty).

Claim 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the received indication that the duration is estimated is selection of an estimated field (Depiction of &Duration or EDuration would show or indicate the it .is the result of clicking on a button for this)

Claim 21. The method of claim 17 wherein project tasks are hierarchically

organized and wherein when a parent project task has at least one child project task whose duration is estimated, indicating that the duration of the parent project task is estimated (Page 136, para 2, lines 1-10, wherein cited "successor and predecessor" tasks indicating "hierarchy" and see discussion about duration, estimated duration in Applicant's claim 1a) above. Moreover, a user would add a button representing the features of successor and predecessor or child and parent).

Claim 22. The method of claim 17 including upon receiving an indication to tasks whose durations are estimated, displaying an indication of display only project such project tasks (Clicking on the above discussed buttons with & or E on their face would result in displaying merely the tasks with estimated duration).

Claim 23. The method of claim 17 including when an indication of whether or not a duration is estimated is not received, setting the duration to estimated (A user using the above discussed procedures of adding or customizing buttons on toolbars would create new or customize the existing box, such as Advising dialog box Fig. 13.12, page 374, and the depicting box narrating "selected duration not an estimate or estimated. Do you want to set the duration as estimated?").

Claim 24. The method of claim 17 including upon receiving an indication to change the duration of the project task from estimated to definite, storing an indication

that the duration of the project task is definite (As discussed in claim 23 above, the narration reciting: Please change the duration from estimate to firm or definite, and a user would store it in a file in ODBC, page 5, lines 4-7).

Claim 25. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system (Page 5, Beefed Up Power, lines 4-7, wherein ODBC being a database has to have a storage device, such as HD, CD etc., and the devices are computer readable and are used to store program comprising instructions) so to specify durations of tasks, by a method comprising:

a) receiving from a user a duration of a task along with an indication as to whether the task is estimated or definite (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1a) above); and

b) storing the received duration and an indication as to whether the task is estimated or definite in association with the task (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1b) above).

Claim 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 including when displaying the duration of the task displaying an indication as to whether the duration of the task is estimated or definite (Page 99, Fig. 4.2, and page 341, last para, lines 1-7, wherein cited Fig. depicting the description of sample project, duration etc., and cited "revised duration estimate" indicating the availability of a means, such as box or button etc., in the window 4.2" for depicting or indicating that the duration is an "estimate or

estimated" value. Moreover, a user would add a box or button for the claimed purpose, as indicated by "Adding Buttons to Toolbars, page 626).

Claim 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the indication as to whether the duration is estimated or definite is a symbol of uncertainty specified as part of a string that includes the duration (As discussed above, a user would add a button or box and symbol like "?" or "#" with the word "Duration", where the ? indicating claimed "symbol of uncertainty and # indicating firm or definite)y.

Claim 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the indication as to whether the duration is estimated or definite is selection of an estimated field (As discussed above, &Duration or EDuration indicating "estimated" and #Duration indicating firm or definite choice or selection of the requisite field).

Claim 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein tasks are hierarchically organized and wherein when a parent task has at least one child task whose duration is estimated, indicating that the duration of the parent task is estimated (See discussion of Applicant's claim 21 above).

Claim 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 including upon receiving an indication to display only tasks whose durations are estimated, displaying an indication of each such task (See discussion of Applicant's claim 22 above).

Claim 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the duration is set to estimated by default (Page 473, Dialog box 17-11, wherein Date Format set as Default indicating Pyron's teaching a function for setting a default, and user would use the function for claimed purpose).

Claim 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 including upon receiving an indication to change the duration of the task from estimated to definite, storing that the duration of the task is definite (See discussion of Applicant's claim 24 above).

Claim 33. A computer-readable medium for controlling a computer system to whether tasks of a project plan are estimated or definite, by a method specify comprising:

a) providing descriptions of tasks having durations and indications of whether the durations are estimated (Page 99, Fig. 4.2 and page 341, wherein cited Fig. Depicting description of Sample project, Duration etc., and cited "revised duration estimate" indicating provision of a means, such as a button, box etc., in the window 4.2 for depicting or indicating that the duration is an "estimate or estimated". Moreover, a user would add a button or box etc., for the claimed purpose as indicated by "Adding Buttons to Toolbars, page 626"); and

b) displaying the descriptions of the tasks that include the durations and indications of whether the durations are estimated (Page 617, Displaying Toolbars,

wherein cited "displaying" indicating the provision of a depiction or display means, such as a monitor, terminal etc., which means a user would employ for depicting duration with above discussed & or E characters to showing or indicating that the duration is the estimated one, as indicated by: type an ampersand before the chosen word, page 473, last para, lines 3-6; i.e., &Duration or EDuration).

Claim 34. The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein the indication that the duration is estimated is a symbol of uncertainty (See discussion of Applicant's claim 19 above).

Claim 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein the providing includes receiving from a user an indication as to whether the duration is estimated or definite (See discussion of Applicant's claim 26 above).

Claim 36. The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein tasks are hierarchically organized and wherein when a parent task has at least one child task whose duration is estimated, displaying an indication that the duration of the parent task is estimated (See discussion of Applicant's claim 21 above).

Claim 37. The computer-readable medium of claim 33 including upon receiving an indication to display only tasks whose durations are estimated, displaying an indication of each such task (See discussion of Applicant's claim 22 above).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed June 29, 2004 have been fully considered and are responded below.

Applicant argues that:

a) Pyron does not teach: "user interface for receiving a duration value string that indicates whether a time period duration is estimated:

In this regard, it is noted that the feature is not claimed, what is claimed is: a user interface for receiving a duration value string, where the duration value string is text that indicates the time period duration and whether the time period duration is estimated.

In respect to claimed feature, Applicant is referred to Pyron's page 325, Fig. 12.6 {window with box: Duration showing 45d, 0d, 25d, 3w etc.} and page 341, lines 1-7, wherein cited "window" representing "user interface", "45d, 3w etc." indicating "receiving duration value string" comprising "time span or periods of 45d or 45 days, 3w or 3 weeks etc. in text" and cited "revised duration estimate" indicating that said "duration" is "estimate or estimated" and that the reference provides "estimating function or functionality". Moreover, Pyron teaches Creating New Toolbars, page 623 and Adding New Buttons to Toolbars and Customizing Buttons, page 626, thus, it is just a matter of adding a new button or customizing an existing button with some symbol or alpha on its face, such as & or E {page 473, last para, lines 3-6}, representing something like Estimate or Estimated values, attaching some string to it, such as 45d or 45 days etc., and when the button is activated, clicking by a mouse, the user receiving the result as

&45d or &45 days or E45d or E45days appearing under the Duration box, pointing or indicating that 45d or 45daya is estimate or estimated value of duration.

b) Pyron does not teach: "a mechanism for allowing a user to indicate that the duration is in fact estimated".

In response to this, Applicant is inverted to above discussion.

c) Pyron does not teach: "indication determining if the duration is an estimate or definite".

In this respect, it is noted that the feature is claimed in the newly submitted claims, Applicant is requested to please review the citations in the instant Office Action.

d) Pyron does not teach: "Parser and page breaker function is tool allowing a user to force the page break between specific tasks".

Relative to this, Applicant being a knowledgeable in computer jargon, would have known that a parser is a program or routine which analyzes a structure or content and decomposes it into its component parts (See The Artificial Intelligence Dictionary, pages I-ii and 240). Also, the page break function only determines as to where the page should break, but not as to what part of the content would print on a page and what part of the content would print on the next page. The later is the function of a parser. Thus, page breaking involves both. For support, please see US Patent 5,524,201, col. 15, lines 38-63, wherein the process at step 193 functioning as page breaker, performs separating the record at page break, sets offset {distance from the start of content} and length {number of characters from the content that appear on the previous page}, and parser is the one that produces the content records that are incorporated in a page; i.e., parser

determines the part of the content that should print on a page. In other words, parser determines as to what part of the content should print on a page and the part that should print on the next page.

e) Pyron does not teach: "a display for showing an estimation duration character".

In regard to this, Applicant is directed to discussion about character representing estimate or estimation in a) above. Moreover, Pyron teaches display means, page 617, Displaying Toolbars, and when a user activate the above discussed &Duration or EDuration icon, the resultant display would depict characters & or E which represent estimate or estimation of duration.

f) Pyron does not teach: "entering an estimated duration character"

Relating to this, Applicant is directed to Pyron's page 586, wherein a user would use cited "entering" function for imputing or entering above discussed characters & or E representing estimate or estimated duration.

g) Pyron does not teach: mechanism for inputting, checking, displaying estimated duration.

In this respect, Applicant is referred to the discussion above.

In the light of above discussed facts, it is stated that Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, deemed unpersuasive and prior rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Irshadullah whose telephone number is 703-308-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 703-305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Irshadullah
September 29, 2004

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